



# Belmont, California, U.S.A.

## BELMONT CITY COUNCIL



*Mayor  
Coralin Feierbach*



*Vice Mayor  
David Warden*



*Council Member  
Christine Wozniak*



*Council Member  
Warren Lieberman*



*Council Member  
David Braunstein*

## City Profile

- Date of Incorporation as a General Law City: 1926
- Population: 25,123 (per Census 2000)
- Area: 4.61 square miles
- Form of Government: Council/Manager

Citizens elect five Council Members for staggered 4-year terms. They in turn hire a City Manager to run the day-to-day operations and a City Attorney to provide legal advice. Citizens also elect a City Clerk and a City Treasurer. The City has three Commissions made up of citizen volunteers who provide advice to the City Council on Financial, Parks and Recreation, and Planning issues.

## Brief History

Historical evidence suggests that the community now known as Belmont started as a crossroads: the meeting of the trail along the San Francisco bay and the trail over to the Pacific coast. This latter trail passed through what was known as "Canada del Diablo" (the Devil's Canyon); today's Ralston Avenue roughly follows that route. Although Native American and Spanish settlers were in the region, the area was not the site of a formal settlement. The first true settlement in the area was apparently a stage stop established in 1850, at the intersection of Ralston and Old County Road.



By 1870, the first wave of development had defined the Belmont community. Fueled by a strong gold-rush economy, the development of the town, both physically and socially, was rapid. Only two decades after the first permanent building, there was a school district, a train station had been built, and William Ralston had purchased and expanded his estate, also named "Belmont". The City was even (briefly) the county seat of newly-formed San Mateo County. This initial development, concentrated and haphazard as it may have been, established the pattern of the community for the next several decades. Although the community grew and evolved, the physical setting and community character had been established in the first twenty years.

The next crossroads in the community's development occurred in the two decades following World War II. It was then that much of the residential development we see today was built, and it was then that the population of the City exploded. The 1950 population was 5,567, but by 1970, Belmont's population had swelled to 23,667. Thus, the population had quadrupled in twenty years. It is interesting to note that the population has increased by only about 2,000 in the thirty years since.





*City Clerk  
Terri Cook*



*City Treasurer  
John Violet*



*Belmont City Hall  
and Police Station*

The character of the town changed during the post-war period as well. Much of the new development occurred in the hills and valleys to the west of the historic part of town. This development was driven by two forces: 1) a strong post-war economy, which provided the market for single-family houses, and 2) advances in transportation, namely the automobile and the associated highway system. As a result, Belmont--like other Peninsula towns--became a bedroom community for San Francisco (and now Silicon Valley).



The transformation from a self-contained, semi-rural community to a suburban bedroom community, while rapid, did not destroy the historic fabric of the town, unlike in other similar towns. Although the Belmont of today is clearly a suburb, and its position in the larger region cannot be denied, the historic fabric remains. This blending of the more or less typical suburban pattern onto the unique historic fabric gives the community its current character.

### **Programs offered to Belmont Residents**

In addition to traditional municipal services such as Police, Streets, Parks, etc., Belmont offers a wide range of community programs for its residents and neighbors. The Belmont Parks and Recreation Department offers classes and events geared for residents from preschool to senior citizens, including:

- Preschool and Day Care
- Arts and Crafts
- Sports, Fitness and Dance
- Computers
- Swimming
- Camps
- Annual Art and Wine Festival; City Flea Market; Concerts in the Park
- Farmers Market

### **Current City-wide Council Priorities**

- Update General Plan
- Harbor Industrial Area Annexation Strategy
- Economic Development
- Redevelopment Priorities
- Parking Issues
- Build a Bike/Pedestrian Bridge over 101
- Emmett House Relocation and Renovation
- Improvements to Development Review Process
- Park Development Master Plan
- Solar Energy and Reduce Carbon Footprint

